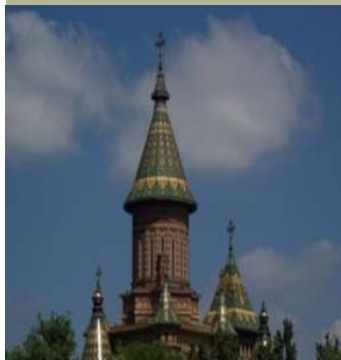




American Citizen Services eNewsletter

November 2011

MEET OUR NEW CONSUL GENERAL STEPHEN VANN



I am excited to join the consular team as its Consul General. I began my career with the Department of State in 1982 as the budget and fiscal assistant at the U.S. Embassy in Guinea-Bissau. In January 1984, I joined the Foreign Service and since then have served as a consular officer in Mexico (twice), Cuba, and Portugal. Prior to arriving in Bucharest, my most recent overseas job was at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. My assignments in Washington, DC include the Operations Center, the Office of Inter-American Affairs in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the Bureau of African Affairs as a country desk officer, and the Bureau of Consular Affairs, including the Visa Office and the Office of Children's Issues, where I was Chief of the International Adoption Unit.

The most important responsibility of any U.S. Mission overseas is the safety and security of U.S. citizens. Remember, we are here to help. I look forward to meeting you when you come to renew your passport, register the birth of your child, or come in for any of our other services. I encourage you to enroll with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, so that we can contact you in the event of an emergency and provide you with up-to-date travel information and public announcements. It's easy to enroll! Please, share the following link with your U.S. citizen family and friends in Romania, so we can stay in touch with them as well: <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/registration.html>.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Embassy.

facebook



Smart
Traveler
Enrollment
Program

All **non-emergency** ACS services (renewal of U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, notarials, etc.) are provided by appointment **ONLY**.

Please follow [this link](#) to make an appointment with the consular section staff.

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Address: 4-6 Dr. Liviu Librescu Blvd.

E-mail: acsbucharest@state.gov

Tel: +40-21-200-3300 and/or +40-21-270 6000

Fax: +40-21-200-3578

In the event of an emergency involving an American citizen, please, call +40-21-200-3433

For information about public hours, please visit <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html>.





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A SERVICE OF THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
U.S. Department of State



"If you're heading abroad this holiday season, you'll need a passport. And you better start the process now."

Read the article at <http://www.wxow.com/story/16049938/holiday-travel-tips-for-going-overseas> and visit U.S. Embassy [website](#) to learn how to apply for a new passport.

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ROMANIA HAS NEW CIVIL CODE, AFTER 147 YEARS

(From The Nine O'clock)

"The new Civil Code came into force on October 1, replacing the old code dating from 1864, adopted during Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza's reign and largely inspired from the French 1804 civil code.



The code introduces new elements concerning contracts between clients and banks, allowing the court to intervene in such contracts. The law also brings modifications in fields such as respect for one's private life, divorce or wills. The new Code also introduces two new legal institutions: engagement and the marriage contract.

The engagement is one of the new institutions regulated by the new code. The engagement requires the personal consent of the fiancées, who shall be at least 18 years old. Same-sex engagements and marriages are prohibited by law, as well as those between relatives. In case the engagement is broken, the parties must return the gifts made. The new Civil Code also stipulates that the party that broke the engagement arbitrarily may be liable to pay damages. As to the other new institution, the marital agreement, it may be pre or intra-marital. With respect to divorce, what the new Civil Code brings new is the dissolution of marriage being possible by means other than the court, an agreement respectively, under certain conditions. Under the new regulations, the notary public too could dissolve a marriage, yet, only if the two parties agree on several aspects, such as who gets the custody of the child(ren), the name etc. Starting October 1, the civil legislation also introduces provisions on compensations and alimony duties between the former spouses. The compensations could be established under the form of money, whether a lump sum or yearly allowance, or in kind. The Romanian legislation also introduces the new provision of "joint custody" applying to post-divorce child custody."

Read the article at <http://www.nineoclock.ro/romania-has-new-civil-code-after-147-years/>.



WE REMIND YOU...

... that American citizens are not required to obtain Romanian visas for stays up to 90 days within 6 months. Upon arrival in Romania, foreigners who plan to stay more than 10 days must register their presence with the nearest police precinct.

For any stay **longer** than 90 days, a temporary residence permit (*permis de sedere*) must be requested with the Romanian Immigration Office (*Oficiul Român de Imigrari*). Contact information, application requirements, as well as fees for the temporary residency permits may be found on the website of the *Romanian Immigration Office* at <http://ori.mai.gov.ro>.



Please **REMEMBER** that one should submit an application for an **extension of stay** in Romania **at least 30 days** prior to the expiration of his/her status (and *within 60 days from your arrival in Romania*). **Failure to comply with this requirement may result in penalties.**

In addition, foreigners who **overstay** the legally permitted period of time in Romania will be subject to heavy fines and will require **an exit permit** to be issued by the Immigration Office in order to leave the country. The application for an exit permit should be submitted to the Immigration Office at least 24-48 hours before departure. In exceptional circumstances, the overstay fines may be paid upon departure and the exit permit may be obtained at the airport or border crossing point. However, the decision of issuing the exit permit at the airport is at the discretion of the border police officers and the process **may delay the departure considerably**.

In addition to the fines, which could amount to U.S. \$600 per person, one might also be **banned** from returning to Romania for a period of time that depends on the length of the overstay, *usually from six months to one year*. If a foreigner is banned from entering Romania, s/he must request a waiver of the ban **before the departure** from senior officials of the Immigration Office. Evidence of an acceptable reason for the overstay (i.e. hospitalization) will have to be provided. **Remember: ignorance of the law is no excuse for an overstay and will not be accepted as grounds for the waiver of the ban.** If the waiver is not requested OR granted prior to the departure, a record will be made in the Romanian Border Police system, which will prompt the officer on duty to not allow you to enter the country.

Please note that the Embassy cannot assist you in removing your name from the Border Police records. If you are staying in Bucharest, you will need to contact Foreigners' Office # 1 of the Immigration Police, located at Str. Eforie, 3-5, building A (next to the Bucharest Police Department).

Please note that American citizens married to Romanians may submit his/her application for a stay permit with Foreigners' Office #2 of the Immigration Police, located at Str. Nicolae Iorga, #29., building F (*near Piata Romania, across from the Canadian Embassy*), Tel: 021-212.80.06, or 021-212.90.07.

Unbelievable Facts About Thanksgiving



The Guinness Book of Records states that the greatest dressed weight recorded for a turkey is 39.09 kg (86 lbs), at the annual "heaviest turkey" competition held in London, England on December 12, 1989.



Contrary to popular belief, Native Americans did not eat cranberries. They did, however, find them extremely useful for dying fabric and decorating pottery.



The Embassy will be closed on December 1 and December 26 in observance of U.S. and Romanian official holidays and for administrative reasons.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

I am a male dual national U.S. citizen who turned 18 last month. Do I have to register with the U.S. Selective Service System?

Most likely, yes. U.S. Law requires that male dual nationals of the U.S. and another country who are 18 through 25 years of age register with the Selective Service System, regardless of where they live, and ***within 30 days*** of their 18th birthday. The list of those who are exempt from this requirement may be found on the [Website of the Selective Service System](#).

You can register [online](#). Remember to retain the Registration Acknowledgment you receive from the Selective Service as evidence of your registration because it may be needed as proof of registration if you file applications for federal, and certain other state, as well as for local employment, student loans, or job training benefits. In addition, you are required to ***keep your registration record current***. Changes in your current mailing address, and any other information furnished at the time of registration, must be reported to the Selective Service ***within 10 days after they occur***.

More information regarding the registration with the Selective Service System may be found on [Website of the Selective Service System](#).

